

Date

Mr. Christopher M. Pulaski, PLLA
Director of Planning and Zoning
Terrebonne Parish Consolidated Government
P.O. Box 2768
Houma, Louisiana 70361

Re: Ethics Board Docket No. 2021-365

Dear Mr. Pulaski:

The Louisiana Board of Ethics, at its July 9, 2021 meeting, considered your request regarding whether a member of your family could be appointed to the Zoning and Land Use Commission and the Houma-Terrebonne Regional Planning Commission while you serve as the Director of Planning and Zoning for Terrebonne Parish Consolidated Government.

FACTS PROVIDED

You stated that you are the Director of Planning and Zoning for Terrebonne Parish. In your capacity as Director, one of your duties is to administer the Parish Subdivision Regulations including applications to the Zoning and Land Use Commission and the Houma-Terrebonne Regional Planning Commission.

At this time there is a council appointed vacancy on the Zoning and Land Use Commission and the Houma-Terrebonne Regional Planning Commission. Your wife's sister's husband has expressed an interest in you submitting his name to the Terrebonne Parish Council for consideration of appointment to the Commissions.

LAWS

La. R.S. 42:1102(13) defines “immediate family” as the term relates to a public servant to mean his children, the spouses of his children, his brothers and their spouses, his sisters and their spouses, his parents, his spouse, and the parents of his spouse.

La. R.S. 42:1112B(1) states that no public servant shall participate in a transaction involving the governmental entity in which, to his actual knowledge, any member of his immediate family has a substantial economic interest.

La. R.S. 42:1113A states no public servant, or a member of such a public servant’s immediate family, or a legal entity in which he has a controlling interest shall bid on or enter into any contract, subcontract or other transaction that is under the supervision or jurisdiction of the agency of such public servant.

CONCLUSION

The Board concluded, and instructed me to inform you, that the Code of Governmental Ethics would **not** prohibit your wife's sister's husband from being recommended for appointment and subsequently appointed to the Zoning and Land Use Commission and the Houma-Terrebonne Regional Planning Commission while you serve as the Director of Planning and Zoning for Terrebonne Parish Consolidated Government. Your wife's sister's husband is not your immediate family member as defined by the Code of Governmental Ethics and you are not the immediate family of your wife's sister's husband as defined by the Code of Governmental Ethics; therefore, no issue is presented by these facts.

This advisory opinion is based solely on the facts as set forth herein. Changes to the facts as presented may result in a different application of the provisions of the Code of Governmental Ethics. Please note that the Board issues no opinion as to past conduct, and that the Board's expressed opinion is limited to an examination of the Code of Governmental Ethics, the Campaign Finance Disclosure Act, the Lobbyist Disclosure Acts, and the conflict of interest provisions in the gaming laws.

If you have any questions, please contact me at (800) 842-6630 or (225) 219-5600.

Sincerely,

LOUISIANA BOARD OF ETHICS

Tracy M. Barker
For the Board

No party may rely on the facts or conclusions. The analysis and conclusions herein are provided for informational purposes only. This is a draft opinion and it is NOT an opinion of the Louisiana Board of Ethics. Matter is subject to change or revision at the meeting of the Board of Ethics.